

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02431 241706Z

60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAB-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01

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R 241014Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2274

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2431

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF IS EG US

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON US-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT

1. SUMMARY ISRAELI PRESS HAS BEEN TREATING US-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH APPROVAL. ALTHOUGH COMMENTATORS HAVE WARNED THAT US WILL PROBABLY COMPEL ISRAEL TO MAKE TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO ARABS IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE IMPROVEMENT IN US-ARABS IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE IMPROVEMENT IN US-ARAB RELATIONS, THEY STOP SHORT OF CALLING THIS PROSPECT A DIRE THREAT TO ISRAEL. GENERALLY, THEY TREAT IT FATALISTICALLY, AS SOMETHING ISRAEL IN ANY CASE PROBABLY CANNOT PREVENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELIS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH UNDERSTANDABLE ATTENTIVENESS. A NERVOUS NOTE HAS BEEN DISCERNIBLE HERE AND
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02431 241706Z

THERE IN PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, BUT BY AND

LARGE PRESS COMMENTARY, LIKE REACTIONS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM OUR SOURCES, HAS BEEN RELAXED AND HAS TREATED GROWTH OF US INFLUENCE IN CAIRO WITH APPROVAL.

3. ISRAELI JOURNALISTS WHEN WRITING ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED US POSTURE IN ARAB WORLD HAVE PREDICTABLY WARNED THEIR READERS THAT US WILL CALL ON ISRAEL TO PAY PRICE FOR THIS IN FORM OF WITHDRAWALS FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. IN SO DOING, THEY HAVE GENERALLY AVOIDED TERRITORIAL SPECIFICS, BUT APRIL 19 JOSEPH ALSOP PIECE ABOUT US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS HAS STIMULATED DAVAR'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT BARNEA TO GO INTO MORE THAN USUAL DETAIL IN ARTICLE APPEARING HERE APRIL 23.

4. ACCORDING TO BARNEA, US IS GOING TO REQUIRE ISRAEL TO GIVE UP PART OF GOLAN HEIGHTS CAPTURED IN 1967 AS PART OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE SADAT NEEDS TO HAVE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT TAKE PLACE, AND LATER, US IS GOING TO INSIST ON ISRAEL'S RETURN OF SINAI TO EGYPT. US WILL ALSO CALL ON ISRAEL TO GIVE ITS BLESSING TO US FURNISHING OF ARMS TO EGYPT BECAUSE SADAT NEEDS US ARMS IN ORDER TO DETACH HIMSELF FROM SOVIETS. IN SHORT, ACCORDING TO BARNEA, US WILL REQUIRE ISRAEL TO MAKE TERRITORIAL AND OTHER CONCESSIONS TO ARABS WHICH ARE NOT PER SE IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST BECAUSE US RETURN TO ARAB WORLD IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR US GLOBAL INTERESTS TO PERMIT ITS DELAY BY ISRAEL.

5. BARNEA SAYS "ISRAELI DIPLOMATS" ARE OF TWO MINDS ON THIS SUBJECT. OPTIMISTS SAY ARABS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM NASSER-STYLE PAN-ARAB NATIONALISM AND WANT TO CONCENTRATE ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS; THEREFORE, ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE CAN BE DEFUSED BY SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS. AND RESULTANT US INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD WILL HELP RESTRAIN EXTREMISTS AND PREVENT WAR. PESSIMISTS SAY US-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WILL INCREASE EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND POLITICAL AMBITIONS; ALSO, ARAB OIL MONEY WILL EVENTUALLY GAIN POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN US; AND ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO PAY REPEATEDLY FOR US WOING OF ARABS. BARNEA DOES NOT OUT IN SUPPORT OF EITHER SCHOOL, BUT HE ENDS PIECE ON THE SAME FATALISTIC NOTE WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED MUCH OF ISRAELI PRESS COMMENTARY ON SUBJECT SINCE OCTOBER WAR; IN NEW SITUATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 02431 241706Z

ISRAEL HAS LITTLE MANEUVERING ROOM EITHER "FOR D
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 APR 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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